

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:

determining whether a task is allowed to use a service-enabled resource, wherein the service-enabled resource is disabled until a fee is paid; and
if the determining is true, allocating the service-enabled resource to the task.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the service-enabled resource comprises a processor in a multi-processor system and the allocating further comprises dispatching the task to the processor.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

adding the processor to a shared pool associated with a partition to which the task belongs.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

if the determining is false, allocating a non-service enabled resource to the task.

5. An apparatus comprising:

means for determining whether a task is allowed to use a service-enabled resource, wherein the service-enabled resource is disabled until a fee is paid;

means for allocating the service-enabled resource to the task if the determining is true; and

means for allocating a non-service enabled resource to the task if the determining is false.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the service-enabled resource comprises a processor in a multi-processor system and the means for allocating the service-enabled resource further comprises means for dispatching the task to the processor.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:

means for adding the processor to a shared pool associated with a partition to which the task belongs if the determining is true.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:

means for dedicating the processor to a partition to which the task belongs if the determining is true.

9. A signal-bearing medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed comprise:

determining whether a task is allowed to use a service-enabled resource, wherein the service-enabled resource is disabled until a fee is paid;

allocating the service-enabled resource to the task if the determining is true; and
allocating a non-service enabled resource to the task if the determining is false.

10. The signal-bearing medium of claim 9, wherein the service-enabled resource comprises memory.

11. The signal-bearing medium of claim 9, wherein the service-enabled resource comprises an I/O card.

12. The signal-bearing medium of claim 9, wherein the service-enabled resource comprises network bandwidth.

13. A computer system having a plurality of logical partitions, the computer system comprising:

a plurality of processors;
a spare processor, wherein use of the spare processor is disabled until a fee is paid;
and

memory encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed on one of the plurality of processors comprise:

determining whether a task is allowed to use the spare processor,
dispatching the task to the spare processor if the determining is true, and
dispatching the task to one of the plurality of processors if the determining is false.

14. The computer system of claim 13, wherein the instructions further comprise:

adding the spare processor to a shared pool associated with a partition to which the task belongs if the determining is true.

15. The computer system of claim 13, wherein the instructions further comprise:

dedicating the spare processor to a partition to which the task belongs if the determining is true.

16. The computer system of claim 13, wherein the determining further comprises:

checking a data structure comprising task identifiers and service-enabled indicators.

17. A method for configuring a computer, wherein the method comprises:

configuring the computer to determine whether a task is allowed to use a service-enabled resource, wherein the service-enabled resource is disabled until a fee is paid; and
configuring the computer to allocate the service-enabled resource to the task if the determining is true.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the service-enabled resource comprises a processor in a multi-processor system and the configuring the computer to allocate further comprises dispatching the task to the processor.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

configuring the computer to add the processor to a shared pool associated with a partition to which the task belongs.

20. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

configuring the computer to allocate a non-service enabled resource to the task if the determining is false.